

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: PCI OUTLINES ORGANIZATIONAL REFORMS TO READY PARTY FOR
GOVERNMENT ROLE

SUMMARY: THE DEC. 13-14 PCI CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING APPEARS
TO BE FOCUSING PRIMARILY ON THE PROBLEM OF RENEWING THE
PARTY'S ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE TO REORIENT THE PCI
AS A "PARTY OF GOVERNMENT" AS WELL AS A "PARTY OF STRUGGLE."
PCI SECRETARY CERVETTI'S OPENING SPEECH PROPOSED INSTITUTIONAL
CHANGES (ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL COUNCIL WITH CONGRESS-
LIKE FUNCTIONS) TO ENHANCE THE PARTY'S FLEXIBILITY TO DEAL
WITH THE FAST MOVING POLITICAL SITUATION. WHILE THE
SPEECH PROVIDED EVIDENCE THAT THE PCI CONSIDERS ITSELF
STILL ILL-PREPARED TO TAKE ON GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES,
CERVETTI'S TONE WAS POSITIVE AND UPBEAT. END SUMMARY.

1. IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT THE TWO-DAY JOINT MEETING
OF THE PCI CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND CENTRAL CONTROL COMMITTEE
WHICH CONCLUDES TODAY WILL DO MORE THAN ENDORSE BERLINGUER'S
INITIATIVE IN RINASCITA (ROME 20088) FOR DEVELOPMENT OF
AN "ACTION PLAN TO RENEW SOCIETY" WHICH COULD SERVE
AS A BASIS FOR AN INTER-PARTY DIALOGUE IN THE MONTHS
AHEAD. IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS, PSI SECRETARY (FOR
PARTY ORGANIZATION) CERVETTI REFERRED POSITIVELY TO
BERLINGUER'S IDEA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEED TO RENEW
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THE PARTY'S STRUCTURE. IT IS CLEAR FROM CERVETTI'S

SPEECH, HOWEVER, THAT THE CC WAS CALLED TO DEAL PRIMARILY WITH PROBLEMS OF INTERNAL PARTY ORGANIZATION RATHER THAN ISSUES OF POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC POLICY. FOR THIS REASON, BERLINGUER IS NOT EXPECTED TO ADDRESS THE SESSION.

2. WHILE CERVETTI'S THEME WAS THAT THE PCI MUST RENEW ITS STRUCTURE TO MAKE IT "A PARTY OF GOVERNMENT" AS WELL AS A "PARTY OF STRUGGLE," HE DID OFFER SOME POLITICAL JUDGMENTS. HE LAMENTED THE FACT THAT ALTHOUGH THE DC NATIONAL COUNCIL HAD REPUDIATED THE "ADVENTURISTIC" THEORY OF POLITICAL CONFRONTATION ("SCONTRO"), IT REMAINED MIRED IN "IMMOBILISM." ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SINGLED OUT AS POSITIVE THE POSITIONS ADOPTED BY THE PSI AND PRI SINCE THEY CONTRIBUTED TO FORMATION OF A GENERAL CONSENSUS OF WAYS TO RESOLVE THE ECONOMIC CRISIS. THIS COULD EVENTUALLY PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR AN EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT OF ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES ("THE ONLY DURABLE SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS").

3. CERVETTI'S SPEECH, HOWEVER, WAS DIRECTED TO MAKING THE PCI MORE EFFICIENT AND DECENTRALIZED IN ORDER TO PREPARE IT TO TAKE ON THE TASKS OF GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT THE PCI "CAN NO LONGER EXPRESS ITSELF IN THE SAME WAY AS IN THE PAST" (I.E. AS AN OPPOSITION FORCE IN SOCIETY). CERVETTI CALLED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE PARTY'S CAPACITY TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO INTERESTINGLY PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS (TO DEVELOP THE PARTY'S INTERNATIONALIST LINE IN CONSONANCE WITH THE PCI'S NATIONAL CHARACTER AND AUTONOMY).

4. THE MAIN INNOVATION CONTAINED IN CERVETTI'S SPEECH WAS A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL PARTY COUNCIL EMPOWERED TO TAKE CERTAIN DECISIONS (OF STRATEGIC PARTY POLICY IMPORT) THAT NORMALLY FALL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE PARTY CONGRESS. CERVETTI REASONED THAT THE "RAPID MODIFICATIONS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE POLITICAL SITUATION" JUSTIFIED THE NEW BODY WHICH WOULD BE COMPOSED OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THE CENTRAL CONTROL COMMITTEE, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS, REGIONAL COUNCILS AND LOCAL ENTITIES, MASS AND REGIONAL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS. CERVETTI SAID THAT THE PARTY COUNCIL WOULD PERMIT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND PARTY DIRECTORATE TO BE REDUCED IN SIZE AND THE SECRETARIAT TO BE REORGANIZED ALONG

MORE EFFICIENT LINES. THE REFORMS WOULD APPARENTLY REQUIRE AMENDMENT OF THE PARTY STATUTE. COMMENT: IN THE RAPIDLY EVOLVING POLITICAL SITUATION, THE PCI UNDOUBTEDLY SEES THE NEED FOR A MORE FLEXIBLE MECHANISM OF CONSULTATION AND DELIBERATION THAN THE PARTY CONGRESS WHICH NORMALLY MEETS ONLY EVERY FOUR YEARS.

5. CERVETTI ALSO CALLED FOR GREATER DEMOCRACY, FREE EXPRESSION AND FULLER ATTENTION TO CONSENSUS OPINION WITHIN THE PARTY. HOWEVER, HE TEMPERED THESE REMARKS BY STATING THAT PARTY DISCIPLINE MUST REMAIN "FIRM AND RIGOROUS." HE SPOKE OF THE NEED TO INCREASE THE PERCENTAGE OF WORKERS (AS AGAINST THE MIDDLE CLASS) IN THE PARTY'S FEDERATION LEADERSHIP (IT HAS FALLEN FROM 33 TO 24.9 PERCENT). IN THIS CONNECTION, HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE 7TH WORKERS CONFERENCE WOULD BE CONVENED AT THE END OF FEBRUARY.

6. COMMENT: CERVETTI'S ANALYSIS WAS, WE BELIEVE, DELIBERATELY UPBEAT (MEMBERSHIP WAS UP, THE PARTY WAS "ON THE ATTACK, ON THE OFFENSIVE") AND ATTEMPTED TO DEAL WITH ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS FROM THE POSITIVE POINT OF VIEW OF A PARTY PREPARING ITSELF TO ENTER GOVERNMENT IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. WHILE THERE UNDOUBTEDLY IS A NEED FOR SOME ORGANIZATIONAL REFORM IN THE PCI, HIS MANNER OF PRESENTATION OBVIOUSLY ALSO SERVES TO REASSURE THE TROUBLED FAITHFUL THAT PROGRESS IS INDEED BEING MADE. THE DIVISIVE PROBLEMS THAT ARE TROUBLING THE PARTY WERE LEFT UNMENTIONED IN A LONG DISCUSSION WHICH HAD, AS ITS UNDERLYING THEME, THE IDEA THAT GOVERNMENTAL POWER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. BEAUDRY

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